

REMARKS

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 5. No new matter adds by way of these amendments.

In the foregoing amended claims, the feature of "direct contact" distinguishes over Bugosh, wherein Bugosh is pivotally engaging (see Fig. 3). The feature of "smooth convex surface" distinguishes over Sugino et al. (see Fig. 6, nut 51, as previously discussed). The feature of "the middle region including a center point of the nut" distinguishes over prior art, wherein as noted by the Examiner, the protruding part 27 at the center point does not contact the element 8.

It is believed that the newly amended claims 1 and 5 are patently distinguishable over Prior art references.

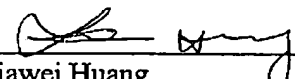
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-11 patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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